



THE JEWISH DAILY FORWARD

סניף זרח

CONGREGATION SHA'AR ZAHAV
SAN FRANCISCO

Cheshvan/Kislev/Teves 5767
November/December 2006

WHAT'S UP AT SHA'AR ZAHAV!

SYNAPLEX SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE Friday, November 3 – Saturday, November 4

Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman, founder and leader of Congregation Kol Haneshama in Jerusalem, will daven and teach with us. See Synaplex story for more details.

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE Friday, November 17, 7:30 pm

The Transgender Day of Remembrance memorializes those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. CSZ will observe this important day at Friday night services.

THANKSGIVING INTERFAITH SERVICE Tuesday, November 21, 7:00 pm

Join with our neighborhood faith communities for a service of praise, prayer and song from our many faith traditions. We invite you to join us as we give thanks for the many gifts in our lives.

SYNAPLEX CHANUKAH December 15-16, stay tuned!

Check your weekly emails for activities including:
Latkes and Vodka with LGBT
Family Celebration with food, songs and candle-lighting

WORLD AIDS DAY COMMEMORATION Friday, December 1, Time and Place TBA

CSZ is planning an event in commemoration of World AIDS day, the international day of action on HIV and AIDS. Please contact the CSZ office, office@shaarzahav.org with a subject line of "world AIDS day help" if you would be willing to help organize this commemoration.

And there's More... on Page 4



"Pull"
—Shabbat Challah
at Congregation
Sha'ar Zahav,
photo courtesy
Jonathan Williamson

SYNAPLEX SHABBAT!

by Arthur Slepian

Each week our tradition gives us a remarkable gift: Shabbat. How do you spend it? Where and with whom? What role does CSZ play in your Shabbat experience?

Can you imagine a Shabbat in which the time from Friday evening to Saturday evening was filled with meaningful opportunities to celebrate Shabbat together in community? Prayer services and Beit Sefer classes of course, but also much more... opportunities for adult study, meditation, exercise, art, discussion, socializing, acts of loving kindness, and of course, sharing food together.

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is setting out to make that kind of Shabbat an ongoing part of our calendar. We have been fortunate to have been selected as one of five Bay Area congregations to pilot an initiative known as "Synaplex™". Every six weeks or so, the goal will be to have a day-long Shabbat that is filled with a greater variety of ways for our community, in groups large and small, to celebrate Shabbat together. Each "Synaplex™ Shabbat" will reflect all three of the traditional roles of a synagogue – house of prayer, house of study and house of gathering.

Mark your calendars for two of these special Shabbatot in the coming weeks.

SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE WEEKEND

The first, on November 3 – 4, will feature a Scholar in Residence, Rabbi Levi Weiman-Kelman who founded and continues to lead Congregation Kol Haneshama in Jerusalem. This community is a center for Progressive Jewish life in Jerusalem, on the forefront of the struggle for religious pluralism in Israel's highly polarized society. In addition, Rabbi Weiman-Kelman teaches prayer and liturgy at the Hebrew Union College Jerusalem campus and at the Schechter Rabbinic Seminary. He will daven with us Friday night, and teach Saturday.

SYNAPLEX CHANUKAH

The second will be December 15 – 16, as we apply the Synaplex concept to our Chanukah festivities with the theme of *De-light in Jewish Culture*. We will have our joyous services and menorah lighting Friday evening, followed by some special events after services. On Saturday, following Torah Study, morning services, and Beit Sefer classes, we will have an array of afternoon classes and fun activities for old and young. Finally, be sure to come to our very adult Chanukah party with LGBT—time and place tba." We hope all of you will come for at least some part of this Shabbat and festival celebration.

continued on pg 4



RABBI'S COLUMN

YISHAR KOCHACHA

Rabbi Angel Shira

Yishar Kochacha is the Jewish way of saying, "Way to Go" or "Nice Job," but with a twist. It really means, "May your strength continue along a straight path." (Which, here at CSZ, could be mistaken for an insult!)

The response to *Yishar Kochacha* is not "Thank you," as it would be if someone had said "NICE JOB." The response is

"*Baruch tihyeh* (if you are responding to a man) or "*brucha tihyi*" (if responding to a woman) – "May you be filled with blessing."

"Way to go" is the language of compliment. "*Yishar Kochacha*" and "*Baruch Tihyeh*" is the language of covenant. One person says to another, "stay on the path, keep going strong." To which the

recipient of those words replies, "I have the strength to go on because I'm traveling with you. Your blessings make me strong." In four words both say, "Together we make this journey possible."

Thank you to all who helped make our journey through the holy days an uplifting, meaningful and transformative experience. See you in shul!

FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!



Friday Night Live photo courtesy of Jonathan Williamson

Something new, exciting and "lively" happened at CSZ on October 13. Jews who couldn't read Hebrew...or even English!... gathered at 6pm for Shabbat, and were enjoying grape juice and challah by 7pm. Though under four feet tall, they made a big happy noise—and we invite you to join these (you guessed it) really young CSZ members every second Friday for a very special Shabbat service.

See the light of the Shabbat candles. Hear and learn the songs. Dance to welcome in the Shabbat or to cross the Sea on your way out of Egypt. Touch the Sefer Torah.

Each Friday Night Live service will have fantastic leaders and there will be stories, games and prizes. Kids, bring yourselves and your favorite grown-ups. See you at the next Friday Night Live, November 10 and December 8!

THE JEWISH GAILY FORWARD

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

FINDING A CHAZZAN

Ora Prochovnick

Our Cantor Search Committee, under the excellent leadership of Liz Schaffer and Alex Ingersoll, has been hard at work. I hope you've already attended one of several Community Forums advertised in the CSZ weekly emails, designed to garner input from the larger congregation. The Committee is using this input to assess the musical and clerical needs of Sha'ar Zahav, with the goal of creating a job description and listing a placement opportunity with the American Conference of Cantors, the Reform movement's organization for professionally trained chazzanim. If the right match is found, we hope to be able to hire a part-time cantor by next year.

As this work gets under way, many congregants are asking questions: What would it look like for Congregation Sha'ar Zahav to have a cantor? and Why do we want a cantor anyway?

Some of what lies behind these questions is the fear of change and the concern of losing much of what we feel deep affection for at our shul. We place a high value on lay leadership. We wonder how a professional cantor will fit within or change our *minhag*, the customs that we love and with which we've become so comfortable. We worry we'll have to learn too many new melodies. We do not want someone who sings "at" rather than "with" us. We certainly do not need or want someone up on our bimah to pray for us.

There is also excitement about the gifts which a chazzan could bring to our community. For so many of us, music is a path to a deeper spiritual connection. A professional would bring us the skills to enhance the musical content of our services, providing more tools to our lay leadership and helping us increase our skill level in leading services.

*"We wonder how
a professional cantor
will fit within
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the customs
that we love."*

When the members of Sha'ar Zahav made the leap of faith many years ago and hired our first rabbi, there was similar fear about the loss of our identity as a lay-led congregation. Instead, we have developed a strong relationship with our beloved Rabbi Angel, finding in her (as well as those who served with us before her), a rabbi who values working in partnership with our lay leadership. The right cantor for our congregation will be somebody who similarly values such a partnership relationship.

Interestingly, the term "chazzan" is also the Islamic term denoting a chanter or singer of liturgy. The word most likely originates from the Assyrian word "Chazanu," meaning an administrator or mayor. In the Talmud, the term is used to denote the "overseer" of a city or of a court of justice, as well as of the Temple and synagogue. In keeping with these historic origins, we are hoping that Sha'ar Zahav's chazzan will also serve a function outside of bringing musical enhancement to our congregation. Professional cantors are ordained clergy, able to perform some of the pastoral counseling and life-cycle events commonly associated with a rabbi's duties, including conducting weddings and funerals, visiting sick congregants, and teaching adult education and b'nei mitzvah classes. In fact, in an interesting turn of events, the United States government recognized cantors as the first Jewish clergy, even before rabbis were recognized. We would look forward to our part-time cantor being available to assist Rabbi Angel and contribute to our congregation in these many ways.

The Hebrew word for cantor may also come from the word "Hazzon" denoting a "visionary." The early chazzanim in ancient Israel were considered prophets. We wish our Cantor Search Committee the best of luck in its work, hoping that with the right *shiddach* (match) a visionary chazzan will come and enhance the visionary community of Sha'ar Zahav.

RAINBOW FUND 5767 LAUNCHES IN NOVEMBER

The Rainbow Fund, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav's annual appeal, will launch on November 1. Between November and February, every member of our congregation as well as many family members and friends will receive letters and phone calls asking for a gift to the Rainbow Fund.

Launched in 2003, the Rainbow Fund has been a remarkable success thanks to the generosity of members and support-

ers like you. The Rainbow Fund is now a permanent and essential part of our financial landscape and represents 10% of Sha'ar Zahav's annual support along with dues, our High Holiday appeal, tributes, donations and tuition fees.

Over the past three years, the Rainbow Fund has proven that our community is able to provide critically needed funds for the programs and operation of CSZ. We hope that you will respond generously to

the letter or phone call from a Rainbow Fund representative – who, after all, will be a valiantly volunteering co-congregant. Your gift will help to sustain the very special community that is Congregation Sha'ar Zahav.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Tubbesing, Rainbow Fund Co-chair, at (510-482-3740) or skt@eeri.org.

More than 115 congregations of all Jewish traditions are participating in this project to offer opportunities for a broader and more varied celebration of Shabbat. Here is one report, from Rabbi Alan Silverstein of Congregation Agudath Israel in New Jersey:

Synaplex has been a tremendous blessing to our entire congregational family in a whole variety of ways...It helps us focus upon connecting Jews of all ages and stages and family configurations into some aspect of Shabbat... It demystifies

the process by indicating that you can meaningfully involve yourself in Shabbat through prayer... but also in ways other than prayer... in opportunities for sacred learning, as well as opportunities to connect with other folks – to make friends and do acts of loving-kindness."

Ultimately, this new vision of how our community might come together on Shabbat will be shaped by the energy, creativity and enthusiasm that each of us brings to it. Initially, a committee led by Lydia Radovich, Arthur Slepian and

Marc Wernick will be coordinating our programming for these Shabbatot. But soon, we hope that many of you will come forward with your ideas and your time to help make these Sabbaths a true reflection of the strength, diversity and interests of our amazing congregation. To learn more about how you can be a part of planning these celebrations of Shabbat, please contact Lydia Radovich at JAM@cpuc.ca.gov or Arthur Slepian at aslepian@pacbell.net.

CSZ ADULT CLASSES

A TASTE OF JUDAISM: ARE YOU CURIOUS?

Three Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15, 7:00 -9:00 pm

Ever wondered how you could invite your friends and family to experience a "Taste of Judaism" without undue pressure? Now there's an answer! "A Taste of Judaism: Are You Curious?" is a free three-session class, taught by Rabbi Camille Shira Angel and sponsored by the Union for Reform Judaism's Project Welcome. Advance registration is required. Please contact

the Project Welcome Program Associate, Shira Butler, at 888-756-8242 or email tasteofjudaism@urj.org.

SECRETS OF A GAY MATCHMAKER Thursday, December 7, 7:00 pm

Learn the Ten Secrets of a Gay Matchmaker that help single LGBT people navigate the opportunities and obstacles they face in finding and bonding with the right life-partner. An interactive seminar presented by Dale Bullock, professional LGBT matchmaker and president of Bonds Limited. Admission: \$20. Advance registration is encouraged but not required. Contact programs@shaarzahav.org.

HOW TO CHANT TORAH

Tuesdays, Jan. 9-Feb. 27, 7-9:00 pm

Learn Torah cantillation in a relaxed, open atmosphere. No musical background required. This course is open to everyone, and is required for those participating in the Adult B'nei Mitzvah program. Fee: \$80 for CSZ members, \$110 for non-members. Advance registration and payment required for the entire course. Please complete the registration form on our website, www.shaarzahav.org. Questions? Contact instructor Reuben Zellman at reuben@shaarzahav.org or 415-861-6932 x316.

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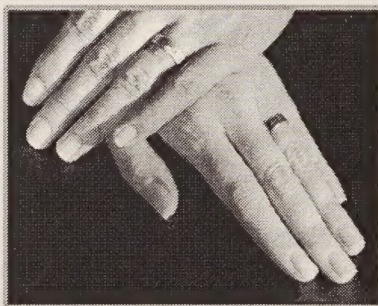
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CHANUKAH: RAISE THE ECHOES OF THE SONGS

By Nina Wouk for the Ritual Committee

Do we mean the words that we sing after lighting Chanukah candles? Do we even know what they mean?

"Maoz Tzur" was written in the 13th century by a poet known to us only by his first name, Mordechai, which is spelled by the first letters of five stanzas. A sixth stanza was added in the 16th century by an anonymous poet. The traditional tune was likely borrowed long after the words were written, from a German Protestant hymn or folk song.

Written during a centuries-long period of bloody persecution, it both begins and ends with prayers for the deaths of threatening enemies. The first verse promises God, "When You will have prepared the slaughter of the blaspheming foe / Then I shall seal with a hymn of praise the dedication of the altar." Four more verses recount God's rescue of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, from exile in Babylon, from Haman's plot and from Antiochus' invasion. The final verse asks God to "Avenge the vengeance of your servants' blood... Repel the Red One [Frederick Barbarossa] in the nethermost shadow."

These bitter wishes, which expressed the hopes of generations for an end to bitterness, caused great discomfort to later, happier Jews. During the 19th century, Leopold Stein wrote new words in German, which Marcus Jastrow & Gustav Gottheil paraphrased in English: "Rock of Ages, let our song/ Praise Thy saving power; / Thou, amidst the raging foes, / Wast our sheltering tower."



The second verse depicts the glorious rededication of the Temple; the final verse bids our generation to "raise the echoes of the songs" sung long ago by the Maccabees, for "the time is nearing / Which will see / All men free, / Tyrants disappearing."

Few modern Jews are comfortable with the angry desperation of the Hebrew

words; and today, post-Holocaust and with a difficult political situation in Israel, the optimistic English version no longer ring true; yet "Maoz Tzur" remains the most universal Chanukah song. And it is not alone. The other song we most often sing, "Mi Yimalel," has a similar history, emphasizing Maccabean heroism and military success in a Hebrew which was later altered and softened in the English translation.

And these songs of military heroism hold a poignant irony: the contemporary historical understanding of the Maccabean war shows that the bloodshed took place primarily between different Jewish factions. We were at war with ourselves.

For modern Jews, then, these songs have far out-lived both the circumstances of their composition and the meaning of their words. Yet, few of us feel ready to part with them. In continuing to sing these songs, we recognize again what the Chassidim discovered long ago and what Rabbi Jeffrey Summit has taught, that for most of us the melody is the prayer--or, in this case, the song.

g3mh

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Contact David Gellman

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Pinat Yeladim U'mishpachah

Children and Family Corner



FAMILY CALENDAR

To Find Out More About These Programs
Go to the Sha'ar Zahav Website at www.shaarzahav.org/children-families

BABY CHAVURAH

Sunday, November 19, 10:30 am

December 17, 10:30 am

Meets at Duboce Park (Noe/Duboce)

Bad Weather: Meet at shul at 4:00 pm

Contact Marty Rawlings-Fein:

alchemarty@sbcglobal.net.

Join the Baby Chavurah listserv

by contacting Jonathan Crosby at

yyohan@yahoo.com

TOT SHABBAT

Saturday, December 16, 10:30 am

Contact Mary Jane Eisenberg at

maryjane@shaarzahav.org or

415-861-6932 x302.

"FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE!"

CSZ'S NEW FAMILY

SHABBAT SERVICE

Friday, November 10, 6:00 pm

Friday, December 8, 6:00 pm

A Shabbat service designed for children
0 to 6 years, but all are welcome.

FAMILY KABBALAT

SHABBAT

Friday November 17, 6:30 pm

Friday, December 15, 6:30 pm

Dinner is vegetarian potluck;

please bring a dish to share.

No RSVP required.

Contact Mary Jane Eisenberg at

maryjane@shaarzahav.org or

415-861-6932 x302.

WHAT'S NEW AT BEIT SEFER PHYLLIS MINTZER

By Mary Jane Eisenberg, Director of Children's and Family Education

Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer has gotten off to a great new year. Our enrollment for Ge'avah (K-1) and Kehillah (4th-5th) increased. This year we have two sections of both classes. In addition to adding sections, we also ran out of space. Both sections of Kehillah are meeting across the street at the Holy Family Day Home on Saturday mornings after Opening Circle in the Oneg Room. Teachers Nili Yosha, Elisabeth Wakcher, and Madrich Adam Kahn as well as the students enjoy learning in both the indoor classrooms and the outside playground. We are all very happy that the new extra classrooms are working out so well.

In addition to increased classes and new classroom spaces, BSPM is very excited about three new teachers who have joined our teaching staff. Longtime Sha'ar Zahav member and violinist Randy Weiss is teaching Hebrew on Wednesday afternoons to the students in Kitah Dalet. Our new Shabbat morning teachers are Risa Lichtman and Rachael Neumann. Risa teaches one of the sections of Ge'avah and Rachael teaches Kadimah, the B'nei Mitzvah class.

Since Rachael and Risa are new to our community, here is a little more information about them. Rachael is a 25 year-old New York native who has been living in the Bay Area since her undergrad

days at Stanford. She is currently working at Applied Biosystems, where she is combining her passion for international medicine with her background in social entrepreneurship. Twelve years ago she had her Bat Mitzvah on Masada, and this past year she returned to Israel on many occasions to visit her partner, Risa. Risa is a 26 year-old from the Detroit area who moved to Israel after graduating from Vanderbilt University as a participant on Project Otzma. She stayed in Israel for four years, earning a Masters in Creative Writing and spending afternoons at her local café like a true Tel Avivian. Risa also participated in a yoga teacher training course and is now teaching in San Francisco.

Rachael and Risa finally settled down in the Castro two months ago. Over the past year they have explored the idea of spirituality together everywhere from Israel to India, Egypt to San Francisco. They have seen the Dalai Lama and practiced yoga on rooftops overlooking the Himalayas and the empty beaches of Sinai. If you don't know them, you may know their dog, Isaac, a 5 month-old Beagle puppy who is a Castro favorite.

BSPM is very happy and honored to have such wonderful teachers join our staff. We look forward to a year rich with teaching and learning.

BEIT SEFER DATES TO REMEMBER

November 11

Celebration of Learning

November 18

Elijah David Lezell Jatovsky

Bar Mitzvah

November 22 and 25

Thanksgiving, No School

December 9

Beit Sefer-led Service

December 20, 23, 27, 30

Winter Break

December 23

Mara Shuster-Lefkowitz Bat Mitzvah

December 30

Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe Bar Mitzvah

SAVE THE DATE: COMMUNITY RETREAT

June 8-10, 2007

NOW INTRODUCING ... NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER'S BNEI MITZVOT!

AN INTERVIEW WITH ELIJAH DAVID LEZELL JATOVSKY

By Miki Goralsky

Q. How does it feel to almost be a Bar Mitzvah?



A. *It feels good but I just have to start writing my drash. In my portion, there are things that I can hypothesize about and it's fun to do that. In the future, I want to be able to chant from the Torah and co-lead services.*

Q. You recently spent 6 months in Israel. What are some highlights?

A. *The life on the kibbutz. I could run free every day. I felt safe there all the time. My friends were another highlight. We became really close. [I was on] Kibbutz Tuval up in the Galilee. I left Israel 10 days before the war with Hezbollah and during the war some of my friends there left.*

Q. What are your thoughts on Tikkun Olam?

A. *Repairing the world. We need to start out in our community with things like homelessness and then move on to more serious stuff like global warming and nature related issues. But first, I think we need to have peace [through] peace treaties and learning how to trust each other.*

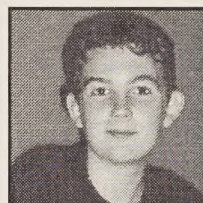
Q. What do you dream of doing 10 years from now?

A. *Maybe be a baseball player, a scientist, an environmentalist, a naturalist or an architect.*

Elijah is a 7th grader at Brandeis Hillel.

DANIEL MEYER-O'KEEFFE

On December 30, 2006, Daniel Meyer-O'Keeffe will be called to the Torah for his Bar Mitzvah.



Daniel is a student at Brandeis Hillel Day School, a camper at Camp Tawonga and has been a member of Sha'ar Zahav for his entire life. When asked how he felt about his bar mitzvah, Daniel said he had loved Judaism when younger, and then lost interest, as "it just became another subject to study at school." His feelings have been rekindled by the preparation involved. He says it is fitting that his parshah is about Joseph's reunion with his brothers in Egypt, just as he is experiencing a reunion with Judaism.

Daniel cares passionately about changing the injustice in the world. He says "I know there's nothing I can do to make this world perfect, but I don't want to be a doctor or a lawyer or anything like that, I want to commit my life to finding a new way of living that's less dividing than our current way is now. Close to a whole world revolution. I want to have

a world that's as close to the idealistic world I dreamt of when I was younger as I can make it."

Daniel would like to thank his mentor Daniel Chesir, Rabbi Angel, and his extended family for their support and love throughout his bar mitzvah preparation. He looks forward to sharing this special day with all of his family and friends.

MARA SHUSTER-LEFKOWITZ

Mara Shuster-Lefkowitz will become a Bat Mitzvah on Saturday, December 23, 2006. She is a long-time student at Beit Sefer Phyllis Mintzer and is ready for this next step in her Jewish education process. Mara is passionate about many things, including her soccer team, the Blue Sharks, for which she is the goalie; acting; her cats, and pasta. She is an 8th grader at Live Oak School, where she played Templeton the Rat in the school play last year. But don't call her a drama queen.

In November Mara will turn 13 years old. Mara says she likes long walks on the beach (not) and her family, who include her brother Josh, her tortoise, Molly & Paco the cats, and her 2 moms, Stacey & Joan. Besides preparing for her Bat Mitzvah, she is also busy applying to high schools, which is incredible fun for her.

NEW GIFT SHOP JUDAICA

By Jeffrey Lilly

Sha'ar Zahav's gift shop has just received a shipment of beautiful tallitot from Israel, along with a selection ranging from rainbow tallitot to a Myriam at the Sea of Reeds tallit to fashionable tallitot by Larry Wong.

Our broad selection of mezuzot has been expanded with a new offering of rainbow mezuzot from a Florida artist. Be sure to check out our new star and mezuzot pendants with both gold and silver chains, perfect for a young person's bar or bat mitzvah gift! We also have a wide selection of kipahs and several different Havdallah sets.

Chanukah is not far away. Take a look at our beautiful menorahs, now on display. Great gifts for newly practicing members and kadimah students, a brand new menorah can also make your own holiday observance more special this year.

This is a great time to support Israel by buying some of the many Israeli-made products we have in stock. Plus, all profits from your sale go to Sha'ar Zahav. Make a Chanukah gift to the shul by choosing Sha'ar Zahav gift shop for your holiday shopping! Gift shop open 6:45-7:20 Friday (7:30-8:00 first Friday) plus by appointment.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm A Taste of Judaism Class Begins	2 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	3 Synaplex Scholar in Residence Shabbat 8:15 pm Shabbat Service	4 Synaplex Scholar in Residence Shabbat 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
5 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	6 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	7 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Covenant of Words Class Begins	8 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	9 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	10 6:00 pm Family Shabbat Service 7:30 pm Shabbat Service	11 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
12 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	13 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	14 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	15 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	16 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	17 7:30 pm Transgender Day of Remembrance Service 6:30 pm Family Kabbalat Shabbat	18 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service 10:00 am Lezell Jatovsky Bar Mitzvah
19 10:30 am Baby Chavurah at Duboce Park 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	20 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	21 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Interfaith Service	22 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	23 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	24 7:30 pm Shabbat Services	25 9:00 am Torah Study 10:00 am Shabbat Service
26 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	27 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	28 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	29 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service	30 6:30 pm Ma'ariv Service		

DECEMBER 2006

DECEMBER 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 TBA	2 9:00 am
					World AIDS Day Service	Torah Study
					Place tba	10:00 am Shabbat Service
						11

3	12	4	13	5	14	6	15	7	16	8	17	9	18
6:30 pm		6:30 pm		6:30 pm		6:30 pm		6:30 pm		6:00 pm		9:00 am	
Ma'ariv Service		Ma'ariv Service		Ma'ariv Service		Ma'ariv Service		Ma'ariv Service		Shabbat Service		Torah Study	
								6:30 pm		7:30 pm		10:00 am	
								Secrets of a Gay Matchmaker		Shabbat Service		Shabbat Service	

[illegible]

17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30	1 Tevet	2
10:30 am	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	6:30 pm	7:30 pm	9:00 am
Baby Chavurah at Duboce Park	Ma'ariv Service	Ma'ariv Service	Ma'ariv Service	Ma'ariv Service	Shabbat Service	Torah Study
6:30 pm						10:00 am
Ma'ariv Service						Tot Shabbat
						10:00 am
						Shuster-Lefkowitz
						Bat Mitzvah

	24	3	25	4	26	5	27	6	28	7	29	8	30	9
	6:30 pm		6:30 pm		6:30 pm		6:30 pm		6:30 pm		7:30 pm		9:00 am	
	Ma'ariv Service		Ma'ariv Service		Ma'ariv Service		Ma'ariv Service		Ma'ariv Service		Shabbat Service		Torah Study	
													10:00 am	
													Daniel Meyer	
													O'Keefe Bar Mitzvah	

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in great appreciation of Gabby Volodarsky.
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in memory of Mary Lou Giannini.

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in honor of Rabbi Angel.
in honor of her co-parent, Bevan Duffy.

Nell Hart

in memory of Peggy Hart.

Alex Ingersoll & Martin Tannenbaum

in honor of Rabbi Angel, thank you for Israel.

Batya Kalis

in honor of the Kiddushin of David Stein & Bill Stewart.

Marc Lipschutz

in appreciation of Rabbi Angel.

Kendra Lubalin & Aimee Gross

Rachel MacLachlan

Irene Ogus

in memory of Mavis Eldredge.

Lydia Radovich

Michael Sarid & Michael Lazcano

in gratitude of Rabbi Angel.

Karen Schiller

in honor of Rabbi Angel for leading such an awesome trip to Israel.

David Stein & Bill Stewart

in appreciation of Rabbi Angel's guidance and support.

Lisa Szer

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in honor of Chanah Harei-Orr's beginning Rabbinical School.

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Correction:

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NACHES

Abigail Schumann on entering into the cov-
enant

Kelley Clements on entering into the cov-
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Aimee Durfee and Tamhas Griffith on their
aufruf

Larry Best and Ming Leung on the naming of
their child Jazmine Leung Best

Jill Szuchmacher and Naomi Sunshine
on the birth of their daughter, Eva Rachel
Sunshine Szuchmacher

Congregants who tell us about their **Naches**.
Come on, folks, boast!

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome!

Richard Inlander

Erika Katske

Gary Kemp

Leslie Weiniger & Mary Sue Rodriguez

Gabby Volodarsky

A BIG THANK YOU & YISHAR KOCHACHA FOR A FANTASTIC SIMCHAT TORAH

To the Sha'ar Zahavniks

who made it all possible:

Barbara Braasch, Kelley Clements,
Tiela Chalmers, Joss Eldredge,
Fernando Esterilla, Shaun Hannan,
Tony Harris, Kevin Johnson, Scott
Kramer and his friend James,
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MEET OUR AMAZING STAFF, SHAUN AND GREG

By Batya Kaylis

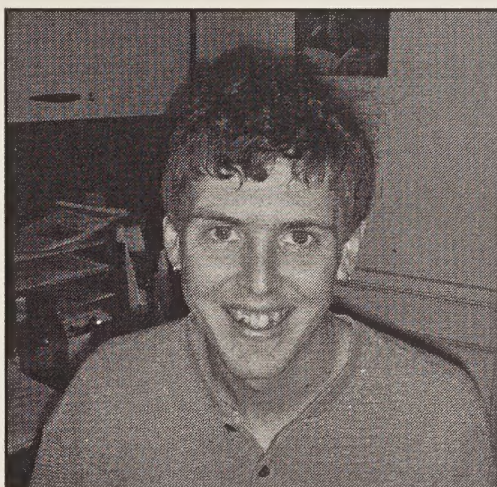
Shaun Hannan

In mid-July, Shaun Hannan, who had been a part-time assistant to Administrator Steven Angelides, became the only staff member in the Sha'ar Zahav office. He was promoted to a full-time position and introduced to the scope of his new responsibilities just a week or so before Steven and Gabby Volodarsky, then the Rabbi's Assistant and now a Sha'ar Zahav member, both left the CSZ office for new positions.

From July to October, Shaun was able to carry on the essential aspects of running the office and dealing with the extra work of high holiday preparation in a superb fashion. Of course, not all of the routine activities could be accomplished, but his poise, competence, and organizational skills literally saved the day.

And all of this was while the Rabbi was leading the Israel trip, key officers were on vacation, etc. It wasn't until September 8th that a couple of workers from a temp agency were brought in, and of course Shaun had to train and supervise them along with his already gargantuan re-

sponsibilities. We were very fortunate to have someone so capable in the office during this difficult time.



Shaun came to CSZ with a BA degree from SUNY Cortland in Anthropology/Women's Studies and an MA in Anthropology at CILS in San Francisco. He is looking forward to continuing his studies and plans on enrolling in a Masters program in Public Health in the future. This interest in public health has led him to feel especially connected to the work CSZ and the San Francisco Organizing Project have been doing in our city.

A true mensch, Shaun wants everyone to know how much he has appreciated the volunteer efforts of a number of CSZ members were pitched in during these last few months. This compliment deserves to be returned. If you haven't already expressed your thanks and appreciation to Shaun, please do so. He can be reached by email at shaun@shaarzahav.org and by phone at 861-6932 x 304.



Greg Lawrence

Readers who get weekly emails from CSZ have already read that Greg Lawrence is a new member of the CSZ staff. Greg started at Rosh Hashanah as Rabbi Angel's assistant, joining our Administrative Assistant, Shaun Hannan, in the office.

Greg recently moved to San Francisco from New Jersey. He had previously visited the city, was impressed by its diversity and progressive ideas, and decided he wanted to call it home. He is pleased to be here and to live only a 10-minute bike ride from the synagogue. He feels that that he and Rabbi Angel have forged a good working relationship already, and he likes having work that benefits others.

Greg is a graduate of Brandeis University with degrees in psychology and neuroscience. He has also been a preschool teacher and has experience working with students of all ages. While he has a basic familiarity with Hebrew, he expects to learn more on the job.

If you haven't already done so, when you call or stop by the office, please introduce yourself and give Greg a warm welcome. He can be reached by email at greg@shaarzahav.org and by phone at 861-6932 x310.



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Yael Dayan at CSZ

by Karen Schiller

The recent war between Israel and Lebanon taught Israel

an important lesson, according to Tel Aviv-Yafo Deputy Mayor Yael Dayan, who spoke at CSZ on Saturday, October 7. Israel learned the limits of its power, she said. "We lost, not because we didn't have the military force, but because we weren't highly motivated." She added that she was proud of this because it shows that there is a morality that you can't break away from, that if you cross the line, you cannot win.

Yael Dayan is a long-time political activist in Israel. She served three terms as a Member of the Knesset, representing the Labor Party, where she founded and chaired the Committee for the Advancement of the Status of Women as well as the Subcommittee for Gay and Lesbian Rights. She is now a leading member of the Yachad Party and is renowned for her active leadership of grassroots organizations such as "Peace Now." She came to CSZ under the auspices of the Israel Center.

Over 100 people attended this event, which began with havdallah. Rabbi Angel introduced the evening's discussion by reminding us that it was important to maintain hope at all times.

Tel Aviv
Deputy Mayor Dayan
calls on Israel to
be "a good
partner for peace."

Dayan started her talk by saying that, unlike almost any other war that Israel has fought, this war was a war of choice. When the soldiers were kidnapped, Israel could have negotiated, but chose not to. The Israeli government says "we don't have a partner," but, Dayan says, they never looked for a partner, never wondered if Israel itself was being a good partner. She related what happened in Lebanon to the Occupation of Palestinian

territories, saying Israel has to become a good partner.

Part of the problem, she said, was that Orthodox leadership does not see "the other" as equals. The same sentiment that leads to women being treated as second-class citizens, to economic disparity, to the lack of civil rights for LGBT people also means that Israel does not see its neighbors as deserving the same things that the Israeli government wants for its nation.

Because of the disaster of this war, she said, there is a crack in the wall that is preventing negotiations. The Occupation, she said, has to come to an end; occupation is never justified. Occupation does not go with Judaism; you cannot be a Jew and an occupier, she said.

When asked what US Jews could do, she said we need to criticize the Israeli government and the US government. Fight for civil right in Israel; support the fight to separate religion and the state. She said she didn't understand why the Reform movement is so quiet in Israel. She said Reform Jews should tell Israel, "We won't support you as long as the president of Israel won't address Rabbi Eric Yoffie as rabbi."

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TRANSGENDER DAY

Transgender Remembrance Shabbat
Friday, November 17, 7:30 pm

The Transgender Day of Remembrance began with a San Francisco candlelight vigil in 1999, honoring Rita Hester, who was murdered the year before. Each year since then, November 20th has been set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event has grown to encompass memorials in dozens of cities across the world, including the "Remembering Our Dead" web project.

Today, high rates of anti-transgender murder and other violence continues to be one of the most critical issues facing our transgender communities. The frightening statistics are not improving; but more and more people, trans and non-trans, are raising their voices in commemoration and protest.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance will be observed in cities across the country on Monday, November 20th. At CSZ, we have designated the preceding Shabbat as Transgender Remembrance

Shabbat. At Friday night services on November 17th, we will remember all who have suffered from anti-transgender violence, with special liturgy, music, drash, and the reading of names. As the CSZ community participates in the holy act of remembering, we continue to educate ourselves and to commit to further action on this critical community issue.

More information about the Day of Remembrance can be found at <http://www.gender.org/remember/day/index.html> For more information about transgender programs at CSZ: csztransgenderproject@yahoo.com

YAHREZEITS

NOVEMBER

- 3 Forrest Kincade
- 4 Michael Freedland
- 7 Donald Albert
- 8 Richard D. Wright
- 11 Sidney Rosenthal
- 11 Bruce Apter
- 15 Harold Weber
- 16 Chuck Norton
- 17 Camillus Angel
- 22 Tristano Palermino
- 24 Helen Reiley
- 28 Fannie Kushnir

DECEMBER

- 4 Marilyn O'Keeffe
- 6 Roy Aarons
- 7 Jack Wexler
- 9 Isa Leah Cymrot-Wu
- 14 John Mizner
- 17 Nathan Angel
- 18 Alta Aronson
- 18 David Glassberg
- 20 Norman David Kramer
- 21 Walter Palmer
- 22 Elijah Michael Silverrod Maclachlan
- 25 Alfred Ephraim Shavell
- 28 Phyllis Mintzer
- 29 Allan Craig

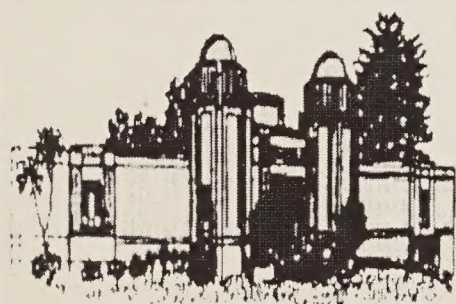
CONDOLENCES

Joss Eldredge, on the loss of her mother, Mavis Eldredge.

Gail Ludwig and Clarissa Kripke, on the loss of their friend, Francis Xavier Takken.

A.J. Turpen-Fried, on the loss of his friend, Travis.

Charlene O'Neil & Eileen Lynette, on the loss of their niece, Shannon Coe.



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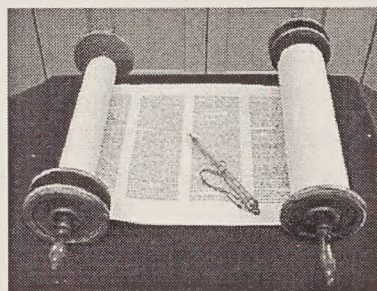
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